

CHELSEA CLINTON NEWS

THE WESTSIDER

SEPTEMBER 2-8, 1993



He's out of here. Harrison Ford as Dr. Richard Kimble, fleeing the fuzz and chasing the one-armed murderer in *The Fugitive*. The Warner Brothers film is at Loews 84th Street, The Criterion and other theatres.

'The Fugitive'

Still Running

BY MARK HALL AMITIN

Film First things first. Put out of your head the chintzy 1970s' TV melodrama of the same name. Screenwriters Jeb Stewart and David Twohy have taken the basic concept and characters and gone far out on a trip that fills a big screen so totally with awesome ingenuity that the distant memory of its origins will have faded long before the final credits. Two hours and 20 minutes from the moment you've set yourself down on your seat, be prepared to be on its edge. Go to the john before the trailers.

Director Andrew Davis has managed to put together a thriller so full of twists and turns it makes the Coney Island Cyclone roller coaster seem like a cruise to Curacao. Tommy Lee Jones has always been one of our most idiosyncratic and offbeat leading character actors (*The Eyes of Laura Mars*, *JFK*); and here, as Deputy U.S. Marshal Sam Gerard, he is riveting, dogged, vengeful and enigmatic in his tireless pursuit of Dr. Richard Kimble (Harrison Ford, currently one of our most likable leading men). These two leading performances fill the screen with a presence that is, mo-

ment for moment, every bit as tension-wrought as *The Third Man*.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the superb editing team of Dennis Vilker, David Finfer, Dean Goodhill, Don Brochu, Richard Nord and Dov Hoenig, the phenomenal cinematography of Michael Chapman, and the chilling and spectacular special effects, this is a cliffhanger of Himalayan proportions. I'll be giving nothing away, since the trailers feature clips of these scenes, by telling you that the train crash will leave you with your jaw in your lap, and the leap into the reservoir will pop

your eyes at least three rows forward. At least.

This may well be the best film of its genre we're likely to see. Performances from the supporting cast, including Jeroen Krabbe as Kimble's friend, Dr. Charles Nichols and Joe Pantoliano as the arch-villain Renfro, are similarly stunning.

You know the story. Doc Kimble, falsely convicted of his wife's murder, manages to escape while en route to prison and against all possible odds, eludes a small army of state and local police, plus the fed, hunting him down. He daringly and persistently outwits them all, ultimately proving his innocence. This is a big screen must; don't wait for the video. ☐